

Chopin's Piano Tuner Caught in Underhanded Spy Ring

Chopin, Sand, and Vidocq Brought to Life in Epic Historical Novel

By Rachel M. Anderson, Contributing Writer

(Edmonds, WA) –Inspiration can spring from unlikely places. Nancy Burkhalter of Edmonds, Wash., clearly remembers the day she was inspired to write her debut novel.

“Many years ago, I apprenticed a master piano tuner in Chicago,” she recalls.” I used to listen to classical music while I worked. One day, when a piece by my beloved composer Frederic Chopin came on, I asked myself, Who tuned his piano?”

Fast forward many years and that question is answered in her debut novel, *The Education of Delhomme: Chopin, Sand, and La France*. Minnesota publisher History Through Fiction will release the novel in November 2020.

Set among the chaos and intrigue of the 1848 French Revolution, *The Education of Delhomme* combines elements of a compelling, well-developed novel along with accurate historical details. Beaulieu Delhomme, the fictional tuner, works for Chopin. Also featured are numerous historical figures, including the notable French novelist George Sand and the world’s first detective and spymaster, Eugene-François Vidocq.

“The book is really about Beaulieu Delhomme’s education into what happens when you lust after money, no matter the reason,” says Burkhalter, who adds it’s a novel she was destined to write. “I have a Ph.D. in applied linguistics that taught me good research skills. I researched the heck out of this book,” she says.

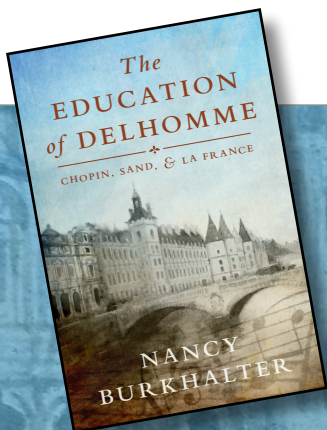
In addition to reading everything she could find about Chopin and his associates, she also interviewed modern day music experts to get their impressions of Chopin and worked those into the book.

When the time came to find a publisher, a Facebook advertisement led Burkhalter to History Through Fiction, an independent press founded in 2019 by Colin Mustful, a Minnesota author and historian turned publisher. Mustful has self-published four historical novels about Minnesota settlement and Native history and wanted to help other historians bring their books to market too.

The Education of Delhomme: Chopin, Sand, and La France will be the second title published by History Through Fiction. The first was Mustful’s novel, *Resisting Removal, The Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850*.

Resisting Removal is a historically detailed account of the 1850 effort by the U.S. government to force thousands of Lake Superior Ojibwe to leave their homeland in Wisconsin and gather at Sandy Lake in Minnesota Territory to receive their annual treaty payment. When the money never arrived, the government provided spoiled rations resulting in about 400 deaths from disease, exposure and starvation.

“History Through Fiction was founded on the idea that fiction can have footnotes,” Mustful says. “The company seeks to publish novels that combine elements of fiction and nonfiction in order to tell stories that are both entertaining and educational.”



The EDUCATION of DELHOMME NANCY BURKHALTER

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The Education of Delhomme is scheduled for release November 17, 2020. More information about the book and publisher can be found online at Historythroughfiction.com.

About the Author

Nancy Burkhalter is an educator, writer, journalist, linguist and piano tuner. She holds a master's degree in journalism and English education as well as a doctorate in linguistics from the University of New Mexico. She has taught composition for many years in the U.S., Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, and Russia. Her overseas work led to an interest in comparative education, especially critical thinking. Both observations and research resulted in her book and blog, *Critical Thinking Now*. In 2019, she was a recipient of Go Back, Give Back, a fellowship through the State Department to train teachers in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Burkhalter's upcoming novel, *The Education of Delhomme: Chopin, Sand, and La France*, tells the story of Beaulieu Delhomme, a fictional piano tuner for the famed French pianist Frédéric Chopin.

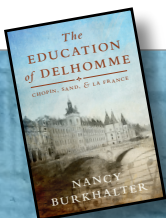
Nancy Burkhalter resides in Edmonds, Washington.



EDITOR'S NOTE: *This feature article is available for your use copyright free and cost-free. High resolution photography is available for free as well upon request. If you prefer to arrange an interview of your own with Nancy Burkhalter, contact Rachel M. Andersson, Publicist, at 952-240-2513 or rachel@rmapublicity.com.*

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